capacity of the existing production sources, putting up new plants and higher import through existing and new facilities. It is planned to exhaust entire waiting list throughout the country by 2001-02.

Statement

District	Districtwise details of waiting for LPG connections in Maharashtr as on 1.4.98	Distrietwis detai of LPG con-nections lease in Maharashtr duri 1997 98
Ahmcdnagar	58323	2028
Akola	17929	4997
Amravati	23447	5279
Aurangabad	31764	1551
Beed	11308	2347
Bhandara	34814	9891
Bombay	23421	9396
Buldhana	9983	5299
Chandrapur	22963	1085
Dhulc	13963	1530
Gadchiroli	6197	1945
Jalgaon	53717	2787
Jalna	4214	2849
Kolhapur	81874	3474
Latur	6390	4694
Nagpur	16605	3582
Nanded	9447	5600
Nasik	50912	3002
Osmanabad	839	4667
Parbhani	15494	4040
Pune	17058	6730
Raigad	29112	1617
Ralnagiri	17985	2337
Sangli	39421	1964
Saiara	2020	3001
Sindhudurg	5971	1053
Solapur	31234	1419
Thane	18678	7378
Wardha	19484	7973
Yavatmal	25989	8220

Crude Oil Production

1763. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the level of crude oil production in areas other than Bombay High;

(b) if so, the details of earmarked wells for enhanced crude oil production; and

(c) the expected additional production of crude oil from new fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The crude oil producing areas, other than Bombay High are Gujarat, Assam, Tamil Nadu (onshore and off-shore), Arunachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh (onshore and offshore). Various steps taken to enhance production of crude oil from these areas are:—

(i) Implementation of enhanced oil recovery techniques and extending some of EOR Schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.

(ii) Better reservoir management.

(iii) Rcvival/repairs/stimulation of old wells and redistribution of water injection.

(iv) Installation of artificial lift.

(v) Hiring of service of consultants for field specific problem.

(vi) Optimisation of production through infill drilling, drilling of multi-lateral wells, extended reach drilling, horizontal and drain hole drilling etc.

The additional production from the above measures can not be quantified. The production from new fields depends upon new discoveries.

LPG Crisis in Guwahati

1764. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Guwahati is facing LPG crisis due to lack of coordination between the officials and the dealers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve LPG supplies; and

(c) the long term monitoring mechanism evolved to ensure that simi lar difficulties do not disrupt supplies in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There was a marginal LPG backlog in the North-Eastern States during April-May, 1998 due to agitation resorted to by a section of employees of Indian Oil Corporation. As per the existing practice, officials of IOC were regularly coordinating and interacting with LPG distributors for restoring normalcy in supplies. Additional supplies were arranged from other plants of IOC(MD) and IOC(AOD) and Oil India, Duliajan and the backlog was cleared during May, 1998.

(c) Whenever LPG backlog develop due to law and order problems, industrial problems etc., oil companies take immediate measures to met the demand in the affected markets by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays and arranging supplies from nearby bottling plants, to clear the LPG backlog.

Oil "pool deficit

1765. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the oil pool deficit at the end of April, 1998;

(b) the factors responsible for oil pool deficit;

(c) whether Government propose to opcrationalisc a contingency plan to reduce the oil pool deficit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies as on 30.6.97 were estimated to be Rs. 18,271 crore. The pool account got adversely affected during 1996-97 due to steep increase in the prices of the crude oil & petroleum products in the international market, decline in indigenous production of crude oil, Rupee-Dollar exchange rate variation, increase in the Rail freight and changes in the Customs & Excise duty announced in the Finance Bill for 1996-97. The Government in September, 97 have decided that the outstandings of the oil companies from OCC would be taken over by the Government by issue of Special Government Bonds. The oil companies have been issued Special Government Bonds of Rs. 12,984 crorc effective 2.3.98. The Government had also decided that pricing of major petroleum products including HSD will be fixed on principles of import parity. The Government have initiated the phased programme for dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism and the pricing of petroleum products like Naphtha, FO, LSHS, Bitumen, Paraffin-wax etc. have been decontrolled w.e.f. 1.4.98. The system of retention pricing for all the refineries has been abolished. Cost plus formula for indigenous crude oil producers and shipping of crude oil has been withdrawn.

कांडला-भंटिडा पापफ्लाइन से तेल की चोरी

1766. श्री राघवजी: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कांडला-भंटिडा तेल पाइफ्लाइन में से कई जगह छेद करके तेल की चोरी किये जाने की घटनाएं प्रकाश में आईऐ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इससे कुल कितनी क्षति होने का अनुमान है; और

(ग) तेल चोरी की उपरोक्त घटनाओं की रोकथाम के लिये क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे है?